Iowa Math and Science Partnerships Grant - FAQ

As we decide which District in Need of Assistance. What list do we use?

> Poverty level: At least 30% or more of its students qualify for free or reduced cost meals as reported to the Iowa Department of Education; **and** in which

> a. District status: The LEA is considered a District In Need of Assistance;
>
>   **and** in which

> b. Proficiency: 85% or fewer of its students are proficient on the Iowa Assessment in Mathematics, Science, and/or Reading grade 5 tests; the Iowa Assessments in Mathematics, Science and/or Reading grade 8 tests; or the Iowa Assessments Mathematics, Science, and/or Reading grade 11 tests.

> Specific information can be requested via IDE by submitting a request of data. Please, use the following link to request specific data https://www.educateiowa.gov/data-reporting/data-request-form
> Specific information on Math, Science, and Reading can be found on the MSP webpage by clicking on the following link MSP 2017 webpage

May we use the data at this site? http://reports.educateiowa.gov/schoolreportcard
Data can be used as long as the latest information is used and it aligns with the requirements of the grant.

Are sub-awards to out of state universities for PD allowable?
Awards will be granted to eligible State organizations.
The Iowa Department of Education will award MSP grants based on a competitive process. Sub-grants to out-of-state institution are not eligible to receive Iowa MSP funds during this competition.

The project is Summer 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Summer 2018 - 100 contact hours - is that for the whole time?
Due to timelines and this MSP opportunity being a short competition, the number of hours required for this grant is at least 100 contact hours.

On p. 5 in the RFP, it says that administrators from each LEA in the project should be included in the project. What does that mean?
In assembling project teams, project directors should seek to include teachers and administrators responsible for their school's Professional Development Plan and school's comprehensive plan.
Does that mean that there should be PD offered for administrators? Yes, if applicable. Teams may vary in size. Administrators from each LEA in the project should be included. Does that mean that administrators should be part of the planning committee? Yes

On p. 9 in the RFP - Teacher's stipend: It says "allowable up to a limit of $20 an hour or $120 a day, plus benefits, or school district contract rate." Our question is if the school

district contract rate is higher than $120 a day. What does this mean in terms of how much we'll pay teachers during summer and evening sessions?
$120 is the daily stipend – out of contract time
$20/hour – out of contract time
If the amount requested for stipends exceeds this limit, a justification must be provided in a waiver request.

Do teacher stipends for participating count in the 50% rule, which is that no partner should receive more than 50% of grant monies?
Teacher stipends should be allocated on Section 4 of the budget "Participant Support"

4) Participant Support							
A.							
B.							
C.							

Can AEA Online count as the AEA partner?
Each partnership must initially include:
1. At least one high-need Iowa local education agency (LEA).
2. At least one engineering, mathematics, or science department of a four-year institution of higher education (IHE);
3. A teacher education department of a four-year institution of higher education.
4. At least one Area Education Agency served by the project.

Eligible partnerships may also include, as additional members, other IHEs, colleges, departments, LEAs, or AEAs, as well as accredited public or private elementary and secondary schools, public charter schools, community colleges, nonprofit organizations, professional organizations, or appropriate for-profit businesses.

AEA Online is a digital resource and may not be the AEA partner.

What defines a partner for the 50% of funds rule? If a University's School of Education, Biology department, and Computer Science department are all involved in a project are they one partner or three separate partners?
Regardless of how many colleges/schools within the institution are involved, a single institution may not receive more than 50% of the funds. Each partnership must initially include:
1. At least one high-need Iowa local education agency (LEA).
2. At least one engineering, mathematics, or science department of a four-year institution of higher education (IHE);
3. A teacher education department of a four-year institution of higher education.
4. At least one Area Education Agency served by the project.

Can a portion of the 100 PD contact hours be done online? If so, are there further limitations on what the online component can be (e.g. how long, synchronous vs asynchronous)?
Professional Development includes a minimum of 100 contact hours for each participant. Various models are possible, but projects should include activities that assist and support teachers throughout the school year. A typical model would include summer workshops of two weeks in length (80 hours) plus 20 hours follow-up contact throughout the school year.

A portion of the PD may be done online. There are not official limitations on the number of hours of online PD vs. face-to-face. To count as contact hours the PD should be synchronous. Asynchronous learning may be included as part of the implementation and sustainability

Could you please clarify if on page 20 if the name of individuals or institutions is required?
Yes, contact information (name of individuals and institutions) should be provided

Will there be a no cost extension?
No, this is the last MSP grant opportunity; no cost extensions will be granted or considered.

Can the lead agency use funds to open an additional sub-grant?
No, the purpose of the MSP grant is to should provide intensive, innovative, content-rich professional development to educators, with the goal of improving classroom instruction and student achievement in Math and Science, not to open another sub-grant.

Can I use funds to support current MSP grants?
Supplement not Supplant: Funds received shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, funds that would otherwise be used for proposed activities.

Can an individual serve as PI on more than one MSP grant?
An individual cannot be identified as the PI on more than one MSP/Title II-B grant. Additionally, a named PI can only receive minimal funding on a second grant.

When a grantee is hosting a meeting, may the grantee use Federal grant funds to pay for food, beverages, or snacks?
Generally, there is a very high burden of proof to show that paying for food and beverages with Federal funds is necessary to meet the goals and objectives of a Federal grant. When a grantee is hosting a meeting, the grantee should structure the agenda for the meeting so that there is time for participants to purchase their own food, beverages, and snacks. In addition, when planning a meeting, grantees may want to consider a location in which participants have easy access to food and beverages.

May a grantee enter into a contract with a hotel under which Federal grant funds will be used to provide meals, snacks, and beverages as part of the cost for meeting rooms and other allowable conference-related costs?
Federal grant funds may only be used for expenses that are reasonable and necessary. In planning a conference or meeting and negotiating with vendors for meeting space and other relevant goods and services, grantees may only pay for allowable costs. If a hotel vendor embeds food and beverage costs into a hotel contract for meeting space, the grantee should work with the hotel to have the food and beverage costs identified and "backed out" of the contract, and have the price they are paying for meeting space appropriately adjusted to reflect the fact that food and beverages are not being purchased. The fact that food and beverages are embedded in a contract for meeting space does not mean that the food and beverages are being provided at no cost to the grantee.
Additional information regarding Food and beverages, and hosting a conference can be found on the MSP webpage by clicking on this link FAQ to Assist Department of Education Grantees

In the past there have been MSP conferences that PIs have attended. Do you anticipate a national MSP conference that we need to budget for on this new proposal?
There will be no MSP national conferences, and it is expected that conferences will not be approved due to the limited funding opportunity and the lifespan of the grant.

Is there a specific list of schools we can access?
Please find the information on our website here https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/title-programs/title-ii/title-ii-part-b-mathematics-science-partnerships#2017_Grant_Application_Process 2015-2016 achievement data, 2015-2016 Districts in Need of Assistance.

Regarding the MSP, please clarify if you can: our evaluator needs to know if federal rules prevail that require an evaluator to be a co-PI or can he/she just be a service contractor.
For Iowa, the evaluator should be a service contractor and not a co-PI. Please also note the evaluation component can be no more than 10% of the total budget and indirect funds are capped at 8% for LEA/AEA and 10% for IHE.

Can a program evaluator be from a different state (there is language in the RFP indicating the funds should be spent in Iowa)?
Iowa is making an effort to keep Iowa MSP funds in Iowa; however, if lead agencies cannot find a highly qualified evaluator in Iowa, a justification of the decision to hire an out-of-state evaluator is needed, including an explanation of efforts to find an in-state evaluator.

The second question is related to a statement on page 25, there is a column for a match. What amount of match is expected?
There is no minimum matching funds required. Having a match shows the commitment, and investment of the lead agency to support and continue the work.